

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected as being indefinite, the Examiner stating that: "It is unclear as to how an air reactant inlet flow passage can have a plurality of outlets operatively connectable to separate one of the fuel cell stacks in the power plant power section so as to direct air into each of the separate fuel cell stacks in the power plant power section, and how an air reactant outlet flow passage can have a plurality of inlets operatively connectable to separate ones of the fuel cell stacks in the power plant power section so as to direct air out of each of the separate fuel cell stacks in the power plant power section." (emphasis in original).

This rejection implies that the specification and drawings do not clearly describe and show the claimed subject matter. Claims cannot be read in a vacuum, but must be read in light of application disclosure and teachings of prior art; second paragraph of 35 USC 112 requires merely that claims set forth and circumscribe particular area with reasonable degree of precision and particularity, and that applicants claim that which they consider to be their invention. See: Ex parte Calhoun and Bennett, 195 USPQ 455 (PTO Bd. App. 1976); and In re Johnson and Farnham, 194 USPQ 187 (CCPA 1977). We submit that it is quite clear how the air reactant is distributed to and taken from the several stacks in the power plant. If the Examiner deems otherwise, then he should point to specific sections of the specification and drawings to support his allegations of lack of clarity. This rejection is thus respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected as being anticipated by EP 0 263 052. Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected as being obvious over the combination of EP 0 263 052 in view of Jones et al. Claims 3, 4 and 8 stand rejected as being obvious over the combination of EP 0 263 052 in view of Mukerjee et al.

Claims 9-18 stand allowed. The Examiner's reasons for allowing these claims is that they recite "a single fuel gas passage" rather than "a fuel gas passage".

We have amended Claims 1 and 3-8 to recite the limitation of "a single fuel gas passage". In view of this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is presently in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,


William W. Jones

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 24,607

6 Juniper Lane

Madison, CT 06443

(203) 245-2418

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